



Newsletter 4 Friday 3rd November 2023

To all of our families,

We hope you are all surviving the turbulent weather - autumn has definitely arrived!

We have been having lots of show-rounds for parents of Reception children starting in 2024 and they have all commented how polite and focused on their work all the children are. It makes us so proud to hear such positive comments from visitors who are new to the school. Even though this is an exciting time for children with Halloween and Bonfire Night (and some who have started Christmas lists!!) children really settle well and enjoy their learning.

This is always a busy half term so please all check the calendar as there is a lot going on and you don't want to miss out - especially on the PTA discos!!!

The Caldecote Team

STOP PRESS ... We have received a letter of congratulations from the Local Authority for our excellent outcomes across the school - we are proud our hard work pays off!

SCHOOL FOOTWEAR

Please ensure children are wearing suitable footwear for school - see our uniform policy on the website:

www.caldecoteprimaryschool.org.uk - parent page.

Shoes should be black all over without any coloured soles, stripes, logos. There are quite a few children that are wearing trainers which should only be worn for PE.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Welcome Wednesdays

To try and help with a smooth departure, especially in KS1, we will be ringing a bell 3 minutes before it is time for parents to leave.

This will give you the chance to say goodbye and for children to settle and start their learning at 9.15 am.

If you know your child may struggle with you leaving, please start your goodbyes earlier.

This will help all children be ready for learning.

STAFF NEWS:

Mr Fraser, Year 5 teacher, will be leaving at the end of the autumn term. Although we are really sad to see him go we are pleased as he will be taking up a Deputy Headteacher post and returning to senior leadership.

Teachers can only resign their posts at certain times in the year. As Mr Fraser's appointment was so close to the resignation date, this meant recruiting a replacement teacher for January would be more or less impossible. However, as we were already trying to recruit a teacher for one day in Year 1, we were fortunate to be able to find an experienced teacher who was happy to work 3 days but only in either key stage 1 or lower key stage 2.

Therefore we have made the difficult decision to swap teaching staff to ensure all classes have experienced high quality teachers and we do not have to rely on agency staff. The changes are as follows:

From January 2024

Year 3, Orange class teachers will be Mrs Corinne Smart (3 days) and Mrs Kate Duncombe (2 days)

Year 5, Purple class teacher will be Mrs Francesca Woods

Class teacher assistants will remain the same.

Many of you will know Mrs Duncombe as our current Co-Chair of Governors. She will be stepping back from this role (although continuing as a governor) while she is in post.

We know this will be unsettling for some children and parents but we will do all we can to ensure there are smooth hand-overs and both children and parents will have the opportunity to meet the new teachers.

Teacher recruitment and retention is a national challenge at the moment. As a school, we have a similar staff turnover rate to most other schools. We are proud that many of our teachers move for promotion which is difficult to offer in a small school. Other aspects that being small present, are to do with teacher workload. For example, there are 15 curriculum areas but we have 7 classes (equivalent 7 full-time teachers) whereas a bigger school who has 2 classes per year group will have 14 equivalent full-time teachers. This means our teachers have to lead at least 2 curriculum areas whereas in a larger school most lead 1. It is the same with planning lessons – our teachers have to plan every lesson for their class compared to a larger school where planning is split between 2 teachers.

There are many benefits to a smaller school such as knowing every child and family, the relationships that are built between all children and adults and this is why many of us choose to stay. For others, this doesn't suit and so they move on. We hope this gives you an insight into some of the challenges and complexities around staffing.



Values award winners: 20.10.23

YR– Eris Jones
Y1– Emily Brindley-Bibby
Y2– Joseph Izzard
Y3– Lois Webster
Y4– Leonidas Papavasileiou
Y5– Orla Johnson
Y6– Aysha Rasekh

Golden Table: Catherine Aghasi Kermani, Vinnci NG & Cyrus Wu

03.11.23

YR– Benjamin Rogers
Y1– Ivy Sparrow
Y2– Evelyn Ellis-Allegretto
Y3 – lmy Matovu
Y4 –Eva Simon
Y5 – Mehmet Tuncer
Y6 - Ziggy Malig

Beatrice Garnham, Marcus Weston & Arthur Joyce

Celebration Assembly

Wow what a lot of awards the last 2 weeks!!

Well done to Lily, Nella, Finley, Katy, Hafez & George Y1, Aysima Y2, Clayton & Louis Y4, Molly Y5, Heidi & George Y6



Celebration Assemblies

Friday at 2:45pm in the hall—please come in through the front office

Red Class– 10th November
Blue Class– 17th November
Orange Class-24th November
Green Class– 1st November
Purple Class– 8th December
Silver Class-15th December

Care Clubs Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs



We had a busy and fun packed holiday club with pumpkin carving, lots of Halloween arts and crafts, cooking and a Halloween party which the children enjoyed, we also enjoyed the lovely sunshine we had a couple of the days. The children are not liking the darker weather much as we can't be outside too long, however they have started playing their favourite winter game "Hide n seek in the dark" which they are really enjoying.





Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 7th November	Y6 Trip to Cambridge Museum
Friday 10th November	Waste Free Lunch
Friday 10th November	PTA Disco
Monday 13th November	Odd socks day
Tuesday 14th November	Y6 Trip to the Peterborough Courtroom
Wednesday 15th November	Y3 Raptor Foundation Visit
Friday 17th November	Y4 Trip to Harry Potter World
Friday 17th November	All years Flu Vaccinations
Friday 17th November	PTA Bag2School
Wednesday 22nd November	Y2 Carnival Day
Thursday 23rd November	Non-Uniform Day-Chocolates & Bottles
Thursday 23rd November	Flu Vaccinations for children who missed the first one
Saturday 2nd December	School Christmas Fair 2-4pm
Monday 4th December	Switch off day
Tuesday 5th December	KS1 Nativity@1.45pm
Wednesday 6th December	KS1 Nativity ' 1.45pm
Tuesday 12th December	PTA Break the rules day
Thursday 14th December	Pantomime Trip "Mother Goose"
Monday 18th December	Playground Christmas concert@3.00pm
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 20th December	Term Ends
Thursday 4th January	Term begins
Thursday 18th January	Young Voices at the O2 Arena London
Wednesday 6th March	Y3/4 Sharing Assembly
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd July	Year 5 & 6 production

Welcome Wednesdays

Here are the dates for this term. Please come in with your child in the morning at 8:40am. You can stay until 9:15am.

Key Stage 2 (Y3,4,5 & 6) : 15th November, 6th December

Key Stage 1 (YR, 1 & 2): 22nd November, 13th December



*I
t is never too early or too late to start looking after our mental health.*



Wear Odd Socks to School on Monday 13th November 2023



Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is coordinated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year it has the theme 'Make A Noise About Bullying' and will take place from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November. The week will be kicked off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. We ask that all children come to school wearing odd socks.

The theme of Make A Noise About Bullying came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. For more information why not visit; <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying>

Amazon Wishlist

A BIG Thank You from all at Caldecote. We are grateful for all donations we receive from the wish list.

If you would like to purchase a resource to help enhance the teaching and learning at school, please use the link below. Please don't forget to add a gift note if you would like us to know who has donated. This is the only way of us knowing who has donated an item.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/WJURQZLL9LZ4?ref_=wl_share



Orange Class have an exciting half term ahead of us with our new topic: Predator and Prey. In Science, we have started learning about how animals. Including humans, get energy and nutrition from what they eat. We will also learn more about producers and consumers in our Science lessons. In English, we have started to read fables and identify the features. In Maths, we are looking at multiplication and we are learning precise vocabulary to describe the parts of a multiplication. We have started reading *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown which is one of our class books on the Reading Spine. Our Geography topic this half term is *Our World* and we will be using maps and atlases to help us learn.

This week we have started learning about our new topic. We have been looking at maps of Brazil and identifying its neighbouring countries and main cities. In English we have been solving riddles and exploring the features of persuasive writing. There has been some excellent home learning brought in already which the children enjoyed sharing and listening too. Scripts for our Christmas production have been sent home. We would be very grateful if you could support your child learning their lines. Please can scripts be in their bags daily to use in school.

The children have all settled back into school since the holidays very well and we are impressed with their resilience and determination. In English we have started to look at poems, reading a variety of different types and analysing them for their features and what we like and dislike about them. In maths we have started our work on fractions and then children have really impressed us by showing us what they can remember from previous learning and applying it to Year 5. In science we have been looking at food chains and food webs and the children were able to confidently and accurately use scientific vocabulary to explain the flow of energy in the food chains and webs that we have studied so far.

Red Class have been listening to the story of *Funny Bones*. They have written labels for a skeleton using their phonics and have made story maps to show where the skeletons went for their walk. They had fun drawing and painting skeletons too. In maths, they have been telling the time to o'clock using the little clocks and finding out about number four. They have also enjoyed making bonfire collages and using the computers to make firework pictures.

This week Blue Class have started reading a story called *The House in the Woods*. We have ordered the events and focused on who the characters are and what they are doing at different points in the story. In maths we have been working on subtraction. We have started looking at different sculptures in art and what materials have been used to make them.

Last half term, Green class ended Autumn 1 in a very creative fashion. They wrote and performed their own river poems and painted some beautiful watercolour paintings of landscapes that included rivers. It was a great way to finish off the topic. We have dived straight into our new topic on potions and are already thinking about our upcoming trip to Harry Potter World by planning a route of how to get there. It all feels a bit Halloweeny!

We are back and ready to go again for the second part of the autumn term. This half term is all about Mexico, with a particular focus on the ancient Maya. We are looking forward to all the trips and experiences planned which you will hear all about. Fractions is our main focus in maths this half term. Silver Class are doing Mrs Gladwell and Mrs Miles proud with the fraction knowledge they have retained. Fractions on a number line proved to be a challenge, but we've got it! In English, we will be creating a brochure to persuade someone to come to Mexico. Our science topic is about light. The class came up with some interesting questions such as, how do we see through glass? What makes different colours? Why are there the Northern Lights? Why is the speed of light faster than the speed of sound? How are shadows made? How does the moon shine if it is not a source of light? We are looking forward to investigating some of these questions in order to find some answers.

SEND

Pinpoint is a parent carer forum that offers support and advice. It has handy guides on a range of topics and a monthly newsletter.

Pinpoint also runs Tii Hubs which are weekly meet up sessions.

<https://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/>



Poppies

Next week, Monday 6th - Friday 10th November, we will be selling poppies and related items e.g. wristbands, slap bands, etc in each of the classes. Please could we ask for a donation of £1.00 for any of these items (Please note, no change can be given as we are not handling the money). Due to their popularity and limited availability each child will only be able to purchase one of these items.

We will allow children to wear wristbands and related items from 6th - 17th November.



As we will be celebrating Red Nose Day on 15th March 2024 we won't be taking part in Children in Need.



Waste Free Lunch

Friday 10th November

Our School & Eco Council members will be helping at lunchtime next Friday as we attempt to reduce our food and packaging waste.

We ask that all pack lunches are mindful of what is put in to lunch boxes and that they try to have minimal packaging. For school meals, we ask the children to be thoughtful about how much food they take and to try not to waste food.

The class with the smallest amount of waste for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will be announced by our council members in assembly.

Thank you for your help,

Mrs Lydon